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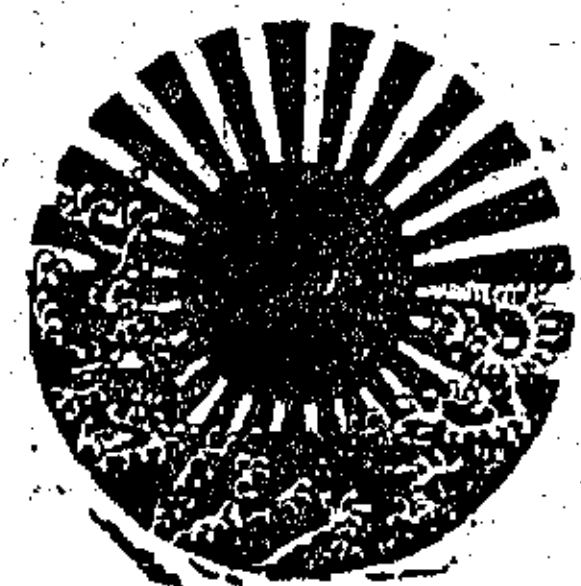
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香港中外新報

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

TO-DAY

5.15 p.m.—Lecture at Government House.

Saturday, 23rd Dec.—

9 p.m.—Extra Performance of "Kismet."

Sat. 23rd, Sun. 24th, and Mon. 25th Dec.—

Bogey Competition at Fanning.

Monday, 25th Dec.—

Christmas Day—Public Holiday.

Tuesday, 26th Dec.—

Boxing Day—Public Holiday.

10 a.m.—Winter "Bisley" at Stonecutters.

10 a.m.—Mixed Foursums Competition at

Fanning.

Friday, 5th Jan.—

Non—Green Island Cement Co., Ltd.,

Extraordinary General Meeting at the

Office of Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co.

THE CHINESE AND WAR
CHARITIES.

CONTRIBUTION OF \$10,000.

The following letter has been received by the Hon. Mr. E. R. Hallifax, Secretary for Chinese Affairs, from the Hon. Mr. Lau Chu-pak, enclosing a cheque for \$10,000, realised by the series of theatrical performances recently held under the auspices of a Chinese Committee in aid of the War Charities Fund:—

Hongkong, December 20th, 1916.

Sir, The series of theatrical performances inaugurated by the Chinese Sub-Committee in aid of the War Charities Fund having been carried out successfully, I have now the honour to forward herewith a cheque for \$10,000.00, the amount of the net proceeds; a statement of accounts; and a list of the members who subscribed \$50 each to the capital fund.

On behalf of the Sub-Committee, I avail myself of this opportunity to tender my sincere thanks to the under-mentioned companies, firms and gentlemen for their hearty co-operation and assistance, viz:—

The Hongkong Electric Company for supplying current gratis for 4 days and 3 nights; the Yiu Wa Company for the loan of electric lamps and free installation; Mr. Ho Ngok Lau for reduction in the hire of the Theatrical Company;

Mr. Li Ping for erecting the required scaffolding gratis; the Yuan Yuan Company for the construction of the boxes in the auditorium gratis; the To Yuan, the To To Sin Kuan and the Lok To To restaurants for free supply of tea and cakes for 4 days and 3 nights; the Shing Fuk Ki firm for the supply of gauze lanterns and sundry articles; the Wing Chun and Fat Hing gardeners for loan of pot flowers; the Wing On Company for loan of sixty odd rods of silk; the Sun Company for loan of silk decorating articles; the Man Yiu Wing and Cheung Lee firms for loan of chairs; Messrs. Li Chung and Li Wo for free transportation of the actors' luggage, etc.; the Wah Tse Pat Po, the Chun Wan Yat Po, the Kwong Wo Po, the Chung Ngai San Po, the Kwong Yik Po, the Tai Kwong Po and the Chung Kwok Po for free advertisements from time to time; Messrs. Chan Kang-yue, Ma Ying Pui, Chan Ha, Ip Lan, Chuen, Chan Kai Ming, Li Po Kwei, an Hung Chiu, Choy Ching, an Kan, Wa and others for taking the most active part in the disposal of tickets, decorations and general supervision, and the Chinese Police Reserve, with Inspectors J. M. Wong and Wong Tape in charge, for maintaining order both in and outside the theatre.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
LAU CHU-PAK
(Chairman).

The Hon. Mr. E. R. Hallifax, Secretary for Chinese Affairs.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

To Hire of theatrical Company and sundry expenses	\$2,472.08
To cost of scroll to be presented to the theatrical Company	48.49
To net balance	19,000.00
	\$22,121.17
By subscriptions paid by members of the committee	\$10,300.00
By Sundry collections and interest	45.09
By Sale of cakes and tea at the theatre	973.87
By Sale of tickets at the theatre	1,902.92
By Sale of reserved seats	9,551.00
	\$22,121.17

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS TO THE CAPITAL FUND.

Sir Robert Ho Tung, Hon. Mr. Lau Chu-pak, Messrs. Chan Kai-ming, Ho Fook, Ho Kom-tong, Li Yau-chuen, Lo Chung-shin, Ma Ying-Pui, Tse Yuen-chi, Sin Tak-fan, Li Wing-kwong, Chan Chik-yue, Chan Kang-yue, Leung Yung-po, Ng Hon-chi, Sun Pak-ming, Kwok Siu-lau, Ip Shun-kam, Che Maw-hing, Au Chik-man, Un Kam-wa, Siu Ying-chau, Wong Kam-fook, Tang Chi-ngong, Wong Ping-san, Chan Ha, Lo Shi-hoi, Li Ngok-lau, Lo Kit-ping, Li Po-kwai, Tong Lai-chuen, Chan Chor-hing, Chan Kit-san, Ma Wing-chun, Kwan Fook-king, Mui Hok-wan, Woo Wan-cho, Un Chi-yuek, Wong Mow-lam, Ho Sai-wing, San Chau-hing, She Tat-choi, Cheung Sam-wo, Li Sang-lau, Lai Chung-shin, Chan Chik-chau, Lam Woo, Chan Tung-sang, Im Pan-tak, Fung Heung-chuen, Luk Fung-shan, Mok Cho-chuen, Wong Chiu-fan, Lau Tak-po, Lau Kwan-po, Ho Hang-tong, Un Nan-chuen, Chan Sak-san, Chui Woon-man, Fong Pok-um, Chau Ngan-ting, Lo Chung-wan, Chan Chik-pok, Ho Ngok-lau, Ip Lan-chuen, Mok Man-cheung, Ho Kwong, Ho Lu, Ho Leung, Ho Kit, Wong Kwong-tin, Tso Sin-wan, Chau Sut-ngam, U Yuk-chi, Wong Ping-ai, Le Fook, Chau w-tung, Cheung Man-hing, Pun Heung-yun, Yui Wai-pun, Li Shun-fan, Wong Lan-sang, Fung Ki-cheuk, Fung Kuki, Yung Ching-ming, Ho Wing-chun, Ng Hok-kwan, Ngan Luk, Yeung Kang-tong, Yau Siu-chi, Tam Pak-siu, Mok Kon-sang, Cheung Yee-sang, Yeung Sui-wong, Tang Siu-yuk, Wong Wai Chi, Kwok sut-ting, Woo Siu-kei, Yeung Ching-shue, Lau Sing-yiu, Li Yun-sang, Li Hoi-tung, Wong Cheuk-hing, Siu Woon, Fok To-ki, Choa Po-seen, Cheung Tin-san, Cheung Kap, Leung Kai-um, Lo Chung-cho, Cheung Ping-ting, Fung Fuk-kin, Lam Sui-ting, Chiu U-tin, Lai Chau-tam, Chiu Wa-sam, Chan Chun-chuen, Ko Wan-kum, Tam Hok-po, Chan Pik-chuen, Wong Pik-chuen, Leung Pui-chi, Tong Yat-chuen, Tam Hok-ping, Pun Siu-cho, Lau Ki-wa, Ho Mun-sang, Lau Yik-cheuk, Lau Siu-chuen, Lau U-fong, Tong Yan-po, Kwok Lok, Chan U-fan, Chan Pak-pang, Mok Ching-kong.

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

SWATOW NOTES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

SWATOW, December 18th.

THE QUESTION OF A SECOND CHAMBER.
The Chinese Government does not yet appear to have made up its mind as to the advisability of having a Second Chamber. In an official announcement it appeared that the President was in favour of it. A trenchant letter from Sin Yat Sen (or Sun Yuen, as he is named in China) has elicited the secret that the idea of this new formation has been no "pet" of the President's, but an attempt on the part of the Government to soothe the wounded feelings of older politicians. Sun Yuen argued that to multiply centres of Government was to multiply difficulties in the way of getting legislation through, and that Japan was no precedent for China—a Second Chamber existed in Japan merely for the convenience of the Emperor.

POPPY CULTIVATION.
The topic of conversation at present is the arrest of the growth of the poppy. The new Magistrate at Kityang is evidently doing his utmost to rid the country of the plant. In a district—Fungfu—where huge quantities are being cultivated the people are fellow clansmen of the Magistrate. Could he use fire and sword against his relatives? When he came to the neighbourhood he was greeted cordially and presented with many good things. To those who welcomed him so heartily he replied, when refusing their gifts: "If you respect me as your relative please go at once and uproot the opium plant. It is the only way by which we can mutually retain friendship." Report says that they went and destroyed forthwith the poppy. In another district—Jong Ha—notorious for its rebellious spirit, the Magistrate apprehended danger. On arrival he entered a school and pretended to examine the scholars. He asked them to write down as many names as they could remember of those who planted poppy. Some of the boys were "taken in"; others refused. He scored his point. Having most of the planters' names he called them and either secured their promise to destroy the opium or effected their arrest. He has made a clearance in some places, but only a small proportion has been destroyed. Much of the plant is already in flower and will be tapped in a few days!

PIRACY.
One of the launches running between Swatow and Swabue was boarded by pirates at Swatow and, on arrival at or near Kapehi, they attacked the sailors, killing two of them. They robbed all on the boat worth robbing and escaped with their booty.

EDUCATIONAL.
The Dau-Yin takes considerable interest in our educational institutions. To the Anglo-Chinese College he has donated calendars, diaries, stationery, etc.

It is not by any means going well with all Chinese Government Schools in our region. At Chiau An the Kim-san School has broken up, the reason alleged being the incompetency of the headmaster. The students make no fewer than ten serious charges against him, all of which are very damaging to his capacity and character if they are true. They are too personal to announce in the public Press.

SALE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY.

The officials have now evidently received permission to sell all the public grounds and old Government offices in the various towns.

Chan Taz-tan, Chung Chor-ting, Chau Siu-ki, Chau Cheuk-fan, U Pan-nam, Ho Yuk-ting, Ng Tse-mei, Lo Chor-san, Lo Lai-sun, Li Yeung-im, Fung Ping-shan, Li Hei-chun, Tang Chung-chak, Lu Yan-sun, Ma Chui-chiu, Chan Ching-hok, Lam Heung-lun, Wong Iu-tung, Kwok Yam-kai, Lai Man-wai, Lai Hoi-san, Tai Chai-ho, Chan Lok-chuen, Chan Ki, Pong Wai-ting, Ng Kin-cho, Wong Kwok-sun, Yeung Sai-ngam, Ip Sau-chi, Ma Fut-hing, Lam Yik-hang, U King-su, Muan Hung-kiu, Chan Lim-fu, Fong Yeung-chau, Ho Yeung-pin, Lo Chup-san, Wong Sui-leung, Ip Li-kong, Leung Kin-sang, Foo Yik-pang, Ip Nam-san, Chi-loong, Wong Siu-ham, Chan Cheuk-hing, Yau-tai, U To-sang, Chan Su-ming, So Chun-ling, Li King-lau, Chau Chung-pang, Choy Wai-foo, Choy Chi-fai, Kan Yuk-kai, Leung Hui-cho, Leung But-u, So Sau-nam, To Si-tun, Chan San-san, Li U-lung, Leung Sun-po, Chan Tin-sun, Li Siu-kam, Yik Society (Salt Fish Gd.), Lo Sun-wan, San Sock-hang, Lo Cheuk-wan, Leung Hung-chiu, Wong Kam-cho, Ho Kwai-hoi, Lam Siu-lai, U Yuk-wo, Chung Yun-hing—\$50 each.

CANTON HOSPITAL.

CELEBRATION OF THE EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

The eightieth anniversary of the establishment of the Canton Hospital was celebrated on the 19th inst. by a gathering numbering several hundred and including Civil Governor Chu, Hu Sui Chee, (representative of the Military Governor), the British Consul, Liang Lau Hsuan (Commissioner of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs and Superintendent of Customs), Yim Kan Che (Commissioner of the Financial Bureau), Wong Shun Chuen (Chief of Police), Tse Yee Ching (Secretary of the Civil Governor's Yamen), and other local officials; Chan Lim Pak (compradore of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation); members of the Committee of the Canton Hospital; representatives of the commercial and educational communities, etc.

In the course of an address H.E. the Civil Governor said:—It gives me the greatest pleasure to attend the eightieth anniversary of the Canton Medical Missionary Society Hospital. The medical service here was first introduced by the missionary, so that this hospital may be considered the oldest hospital in Canton. The institution was founded on a philanthropic basis, and on the basis of brotherly love. This same principle is taught by Confucius, but the missionaries have followed their precepts by examples, and this institution is the result. Health is necessary to all mankind. Without it one cannot enjoy a happy life. Unfortunately, one's health is sometimes impaired. Then one has to resort to medical treatment. This hospital is located not merely in one city, but has branches in many places, numbering in all more than thirty. Thus it is known to all kinds of people such as Dr. Sun Yat-sen and President Li Yuen Hung, who have donated a big sum of money towards its support. I am told that this hospital has treated 3,000,000 patients, of whom 150,000 were successfully operated upon. The institution is to be congratulated upon doing this humane work so successfully. The trustees are endeavouring to make improvements from time to time, and the active members have increased, the equipment and the building are being modernized, and it is my hope that the hospital may reach the highest possible point of development.

Other speeches having been delivered relating to the inauguration of the building and emphasising the value of the institutions work, the gathering dispersed after taking tea together.

A CANDID GERMAN.

RAIDS ON ENGLAND.

One of the most interesting speeches in the course of a debate in the Reichstag on the Government's demand for new war credits was that of the Socialist leader, Herr Bernstein. It was a scathing indictment of German finance and German methods of warfare, and roused other parties in the House to frequent protests, and he was frequently called to order. He began by referring to the disquieting prospects of a new war loan in the near future, and said:—

"In view of these probabilities ask ourselves how much longer is this war going to last? We are witnessing a dangerous growth of the State's indebtedness, and the question arises: 'Where is all this money coming from?' The Secretary of State remarked that no particular pressure had been required to make the last loan a success.

"I can only say that we know of many cases where strong pressure was brought to bear with that object. Who are the chief subscribers to the loans? A good number of them are banks and other public institutions, and then come the prosperous landowner, the successful trader and manufacturer, who have all been enriched by large war profits at the expense of the great mass of the population."

Herr Bernstein then turned to the consideration of the question of peace, and ridiculed the pretensions of those who assert that they are ready for peace:—"Attempts to come to an agreement with individual enemies at the cost of others are doomed to failure, as shown by the fate of the efforts to conclude a separate peace with Russia. Indeed, these peace overtures to Russia, against whom the people have been urged to fight for two years, do not exactly redound to our honour, and, in addition, they are hopeless. What is the fundamental vice of German policy, what is it which turns even sincere friends of peace into our adversaries? It is the extreme mistrust with which not only the Governments but also the peoples of other countries regard us."

METHODS OF WAR.
Herr Bernstein's next subject was the methods of warfare, and he protested that Germany was fast returning to the barbarous practices of bygone centuries:—"One of the principal results of the progress of our civilisation was that war was confined to combatants only. Now we have petitions to the Reichstag, which urge a war upon the non-combatants with the most brutal of weapons, and the bombing of open cities is advocated in order to bring the enemy nation concerned to its knees."

But this betrays a complete misconception of popular psychology, which was

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

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A HOUSE in Kautford Terrace.

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Moderate rent.
For rent and other particulars apply to—
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[840]

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From 1st May.

OFFICES, 2nd Floor, St. George's Buildings.
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SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.
[1318]

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OFFICES on 1st Floor, No. 3, Queen's Road Central, at present in the occupation of The China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.

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CHINA FIRE INSURANCE Co., LTD.
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OFFICES at 2, Connaught Road Central.

OFFICES in King's and York Buildings.
HOUSES in Clifton Gardens, Conduit Road.
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KOWLOON MARINE LOT 43 with wharf area 58,000 sq. ft., suitable for Coal Storage or erection of Godowns.

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ONE 104 B.H.P. HORNSLEY ACKROYD OIL ENGINE complete with and coupled direct to one 6 K.V. Continuous Current Shunt Wound Dynamo of 50/70 volts with shunt regulator.

Also ONE SWITCHBOARD for ACCUMULATORS, DYNAMO, etc., complete with instruments for 100 Amps.

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LINTSEAD & DAVIS,
Alexandra Buildings.
[134]

better understood by Sophocles 2000 years ago, when he said in "Ajax": "An enemy must be fought in such a way that he may become once more a friend."

A CONGRESS OF NATIONS!
In conclusion, Herr Bernstein said:—"The number of the killed is already estimated at 4,500,000; that of permanently crippled at 3,200,000, and that of wounded at 11,000,000. How long yet is this massacre going to last? To put an end to it, it is necessary to make an unequivocal statement—I will tell you of what kind. Let it be proclaimed authoritatively on the German side that we are prepared to conclude an armistice as a preliminary to a general European Congress which should restore peace on the basis of the democratic rights of all nations."—Daily News.

CORRESPONDENCE. THE PREVENTION OF GRASS FIRES.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

Sir,—Owing to the exceedingly dry weather and the very inflammable nature of vegetation on the hillsides at the present time, I would ask for the kind co-operation of the public in the prevention of grass fires.

Matches, cigar and cigarette ends, etc., should not be thrown away in the vicinity of vegetation unless they have been previously extinguished.

Members of picnic parties should see that all fires kindled to boil water, etc., are afterwards properly extinguished before leaving them.

The neglect of any of these precautions is sufficient to destroy the work of years.—Yours faithfully,

W. J. TUTCHER,
(Superintendent).

Hongkong, 20th December, 1916.

WHAT IS A FAIRWAY?

JUDGMENT OF THE HONGKONG ADMIRALTY COURT.

Judgment was delivered yesterday by the Hongkong Admiralty Court on the question of fairway raised in the action of the Shui On Steamship Company, who claimed \$100,000 from the Standard Oil Company, amount of damages alleged to have been caused to the West River steamer *Shui On* by collision with the Standard Oil lighter *Ruth*, in the West River. At the previous hearing judgment was given for the Shui On Steamship Co., but the action was adjourned to allow of argument on the question "What is a fairway?"

In the course of a lengthy judgment the Chief Justice said the word "fairway" meant a clear passage way by water, wherever there is an open navigable passage used by vessels proceeding up and down a river or channel, and quoted many judgments in support of this view. Adopting that definition, he had to determine if the *Ruth* was situated in "a clear passage way by water"; was she in "an open navigable passage which is used by vessels in the river in question," or was she "near" to such navigable passage within the meaning of the Article. The question of what was a navigable passage was governed by this limitation—was the *Ruth* anchored in a part of the river "where it is safe for vessels of moderate draught to navigate?" When he came to the evidence on the point he found it, in some respects, conflicting, but he had had no real difficulty in coming to a conclusion upon it. The Chief Justice reviewed the evidence given on the question of fairway, and remarked that the premonitory cautions given by the seamen of the *Ruth* did not prove that the *Ruth* was in the fairway, but he thought that they went to show the dangerous position of the *Ruth* in the minds of the witnesses, and that, in their opinion, she was in or near the navigable passage used by vessels. The question he had to decide was whether, at the time of the collision, the plaintiff's vessel—the *Shui On*—was on or near a course where it was safe for a vessel of moderate draught to navigate. The wreck of the *Ruth* was lying in so eight feet of water slightly north of the one fathom line, and he was advised by the Naval Assessor that the water included between the one fathom line was navigable water, and was safe for vessels of moderate size to navigate in. He therefore held that the *Ruth* was in the fairway within the meaning of Article II, and she should have carried the prescribed lights.

As to the argument on Article 29 of the Regulations, the Chief Justice commented that the Article referred to the ordinary practice of seamen. This, prior to the passing of the Regulations, was governed by the general maritime law, which, as he had shown from the authorities cited, governed the question of liability in their Courts; and this was now adopted by all maritime nations in the International Regulations. It was an obvious seaman-like precaution for the *Ruth* to have lights, and he had found that she had not. He gave judgment for the plaintiffs with costs, with the usual reference as to damages. The counter-claim by the Standard Oil was dismissed with costs.

Mr. Potter applied for a stay of fourteen days, and this was granted. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., and Mr. C. G. Alabaster (instructed by Mr. C. A. S. Russ, from Mr. Gardiner's office) were for the Shui On Steamship Company, and the Standard Oil Company were represented by Mr. Eldon Potter and Mr. F. C. Jenkin (instructed by Mr. Wilkinson, of Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist).

THE DEVELOPMENT OF KOWLOON. PETITION FOR THE REMOVAL OF AN OBSTRUCTION.

The following petition, signed by 427 residents of the Colony, many of whom are property-owners in Kowloon, will be presented by the Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, representative of the Chamber of Commerce, at the meeting of the Legislative Council this afternoon. The petition, which asks for the removal of the barrier of earth and rock separating Nathan and Coronation roads, and the improvement of the water supply to the older houses in Kowloon, would have been even more extensively signed if it had been carried from house to house. Amongst the signatories are many people who live on the island but the proposed work is considered to be of such importance to the Colony at large that it should be supported by everyone.

To His Excellency Sir Francis Henry May, K.C.M.G. Governor and Commander-in-Chief and Vice-Admiral of the Port and Colony of Hongkong.

May it please your Excellency, we the undersigned residents and property-owners of Kowloon respectfully bring before your Excellency's notice the urgent necessity for the removal of the rest of the hill which blocks the joining up of Nathan and Coronation Roads, Kowloon.

In your Excellency's budget speech of 31st October, you intimated that the Government proposed spending a sum of \$125,000 on improvements, etc., to roads in the new territory, but no mention was made of any intention to carry out this most essential improvement to the main road leading to the new territories.

In 1911, at a meeting of The Legislative Council the Director of Public Works stated:—

"Under Kowloon Roads and Streets a sum of \$20,000 is provided for the prolongation of Nathan Road, etc." In 1913 Mr. Landale asked the question as to why this work had not been carried out, intimating that he thought it a very short-sighted policy on the part of the Government, as lots of land then of little use could be utilised.

The answer of the Honourable The Director of Public Works was:—

"With regard to the removal of the hill which blocks the continuation of Nathan Road, the work so far has been executed free of cost. It includes the removal of a great mass of rock and earth which would be very costly, and it has been found expedient to leave this work to be carried out by the parties who require to obtain material for reclamation purposes. When these purposes have been fully served, the completion of the removal will doubtless be taken in hand."

We consider this to be a very poor argument for delaying such a scheme, and venture to put forward the following reasons why we consider the carrying out of this work to be so necessary.

1.—The Nathan and Coronation Roads are the main roads leading to the north-west of the peninsula, and to all the roads in the hinterland. The only available routes for wheeled traffic now are, after leaving Nathan Road, either through a narrow filthy lane with a more filthy latrine abutting on to it, which of itself is a disgrace to a British Colony, or through other lanes or streets the houses of which are mostly composed of Chinese brothels, some of these being of the lowest type. These streets are also so congested with pedestrian and truck traffic, that it is almost impossible to avoid having an accident if driving a motor-car or even riding in a rickshaw along them.

2.—That the Coronation Road has been already made, including the side channels, and that trees have been planted on both sides of it, clearly indicating the Government's idea of opening up a through road. At present the road is little used owing to the want of an outlet, and is rapidly becoming overgrown with grass and weeds.

3.—That the expenditure necessary to carry out this improvement is insignificant compared with the \$125,000, which it is proposed to spend further out in the new territory.

4.—That the very necessary improvements to the water mains supplying the older parts of Kowloon have been held up for years owing to the route of the new mains running through the aforementioned hill.

5.—The schemes for ameliorating the lot of the poorer members of the community due to the overcrowding and high rents in the southern part of the peninsula, e.g., "The Garden City Scheme," are greatly hampered by the want of a suitable approach to the land already bought.

6.—That fresh air is admitted by all to be a necessity to good health, but at present if a resident of Kowloon, or anyone else for that matter, wishes to get the fresh air of the hills to the north-west of the peninsula, or the country between, they have to go and come through some of the most unsavoury streets of the colony.

The above-mentioned reasons we venture to think will satisfy your Excellency that this work represents a pressing need and should be carried out without further delay, and we therefore pray that the work may be completed during the present year—if necessary at the cost of postponing some of the road development in the hinterland.

We have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient servants,
Hongkong, November 1916.

SPORT. CRICKET.

UNIVERSITY v. NAVY.

This match was played yesterday afternoon on the Craigengower ground. The Navy were not fully represented, although they had some good men playing for them. University won easily by an innings and 128 runs, due to the fine bowling of Brayshaw, Dixon, and Marley. Brayshaw in the first innings performed the "hat-trick," Dixon took 4 wickets for 7 runs, while Marley, who was only put on in the latter part of the second innings, took 3 for no runs. Brayshaw, Redmond and Rumjahn each gave a splendid performance with the bat—the first two named retiring with over 50 runs to their credit. Scores:—

NAVY—1ST INNINGS.				
F. J. B. Gibson, c Ponsonby, b Fane, b Dixon	0			
A. G. Pile, c Wright, b Brayshaw	11			
G. B. Wild, b Dixon	0			
Col. R. H. Morgan, c and b Brayshaw	6			
Pte. Hopper, c Ponsonby, b Fane, b Brayshaw	0			
P. O. Newman, c and b Brayshaw	0			
Pte. Cook, c G. Hens, b Dixon	5			
A. B. Godfrey, not out	0			
P. O. White, c Ponsonby, b Fane, b Brayshaw	0			
H. G. Lester, c G. Hens, b Brayshaw	0			
W. Wright, b Dixon	0			
Extras	3			
Total	31			

O.	M.	R.	W.
Brayshaw	0	8	21
Dixon	7	2	7

2ND INNINGS.				
P. O. White, run out	2			
H. G. Lester, c Dixon, b Brayshaw	0			
Pte. Cook, c Chow, b Brayshaw	5			
P. D. Newman, b Marley	6			
Pte. Hopper, c Sousa, b Dixon	1			
La. Col. Morgan, b Brayshaw	10			
A. G. Pile, c Hall, b Marley	0			
Com. Gibson, c and b Marley	0			
G. B. Wild, not out	0			
Extras	2			
Total	31			

O.	M.	R.	W.
Dixon	5	10	2
Brayshaw	6	1	18
Marley	1.5	1	0

UNIVERSITY.				
J. D. Wright, c White, b Gibson	10			
R. Ponsonby, c Fane, b Dixon	10			
G. E. Marley, b Gibson	1			
F. A. Redmond, retired	51			
K. Brayshaw, retired	4			
A. de Sousa, b Godfrey	31			
A. H. Rumjahn, c Wild, b Godfrey	5			
D. P. Dixon, c and b Pile	5			
W. Giteus, b Godfrey	2			
Chow Yat Cheong, not out	6			
W. Hall, c White, b Morgan	1			
Extras	18			
Total	190			

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

2ND DIVISION.

STAFF AND DEPARTMENTS v. 87TH CO. R.G.A.

In spite of being an obviously stronger team than the gunners, and practically monopolising the play, the Staff and Departments had not penetrated the opposing defence sufficiently to score up till half-time, at the Happy Valley yesterday. This state of affairs was partly due to good work by the R.G.A. defence, but, mainly, to very bad shooting on the part of the Staff. From the time they kicked off they swarmed around the 87th goal but it was some time before the "goalie" was tested, with a shot from the right wing. Steel forced a corner and the Staff made another attempt to score but Divine cleared well. Lawrence stopped one of the very rare rushes of the 87th Co., and shortly afterwards Fritchard was called upon to clear, which he had no difficulty in doing. Cox was playing well at left back for the Gunners, and stopping many dangerous movements. Half time arrived with no goals scored.

In the second half Davies, who had been playing back for the Staff, came up into the forward line, and soon made his presence felt by the opposing defence. From a scramble in the goal area, Darriecott opened the scoring with a shot that struck the goalkeeper in passing. Soon afterwards Davies got through, but missed badly when he had only the goalkeeper to beat. Steele then put in a number of good shots from the left wing, which, however, were not utilised. The second goal also fell to Darriecott, who, after beating the opposing backs, scored with a good shot. Thomas made a good attempt for the Gunners, and nearly headed in from a corner, while Knight missed a fairly easy chance when not far from goal. There was no further scoring, the Staff and Departments winning by two goals to nil.

Referee, Mr. Wright.

NAVY (R). v. "A" CO. K.S.L.I.

This game was very one-sided, owing to the fact that the Navy were only able to field nine men. In spite of this, however, so well did they defend their lines that at half time the Shropshires were only one goal up. As in the other match, the shooting was particularly bad, chance after chance being missed by the "A" Co. forwards, who did everything but score. The Shropshires naturally had nearly all the game, the sailors only very occasionally breaking away and causing trouble. A free kick awarded to the Navy, for hands just outside the penalty area, looked dangerous but the ball was

(Continued at foot of next column.)

SMALL-POX IN HONGKONG. FATAL EUROPEAN CASES.

The small-pox epidemic shows no signs of abating. Within the last seven days 76 cases have been reported or discovered.

Five of the victims were Europeans, two of whom have succumbed—one on Tuesday and the other yesterday. Dr. Woodman, M.O.H., and six assistants are busy vaccinating Chinese at the rate of something like 1,000 a day, and the latter are showing a readiness amounting to anxiety to take this precautionary measure. A large number of Europeans have also been vaccinated, and it is hoped that the result of this and other precautionary measures will be an early abatement of the epidemic. The chief cause of the spread of the disease is the dumping of bodies of small-pox victims in lanes and in the street by the Chinese. Bodies are being found disposed of in this fashion daily, and the police are making strenuous efforts to stamp out the reprehensible practice.

A SHIP'S FIRE.

JUDGMENT IN THE "POLAVEN" ENQUIRY.

Commander Backwith, R.N., President of the Hongkong Marine Court, delivered judgment yesterday in connection with the *Polaven* enquiry. It will be remembered that the vessel caught on fire when alongside the Kowloon Dock Wharf, on November 2nd, and the enquiry was instituted by the Asiatic Petroleum Co., the owners of the vessel, who were represented by Mr. F. C. Jenkin (instructed by Mr. Hooper). The Dock Company were represented by Mr. H. W. Looker.

In addition to the President, the Court was composed of Commander Gibson, R.N., Capt. Walker, and Mr. J. Macdonald (Government Marine Surveyor). The judgment of the Court was as follows:—"We find that on the 2nd of November, 1916, the British steamship *Polaven*, official number 138811, of London, was lying alongside the wharf of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock, Kowloon, for repairs. A fire broke out on board this ship at about 8 a.m. on November 2nd. We are of the opinion that the fire started in the engine-room at the fan casing, and ignited gases given off by kerosene from the tank at the fore-end of the store-room.

"We find that through the conflicting and unsatisfactory nature of the evidence, it is impossible to form any definite conclusion as to the actual cause of the fire. The Court, however, is satisfied that the fire was not caused by either spontaneous combustion or an explosion mechanically produced. We all wish to add that there was no evidence of arson."

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

DEAL IN SINGLETS.

Two Chinese were having a deal in singlets, when the bartering led to high words, and then blows. An Indian constable endeavoured to subdue the heated feelings, but as the men persisted in pugilism they were both taken to the police station. A remand was granted.

SNATCH THIEF.

When hawking in Centre Street a woman had her pearl head-band snatched away. A chase ensued and the thief was eventually caught on a verandah with the stolen property in his possession. He was sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

GOLF AT CANTON.

The competition for the 1916 Championship of the Tungshan Golf Club, Canton, ended last Sunday in a win for last year's champion, Mr. W. D. Kraft, who defeated Mr. S. R. Brown in the final by 1 up in 36 holes.

Mr. Kraft is a well-known local golfer and he was the favourite for the Canton Championship from the beginning of the competition, but he had by no means an easy journey into the final, as he had first to defeat Mr. P. L. O. Hill, a promising young Canton golfer, and then the second favourite, Mr. J. T. Smith. Both these players gave Mr. Kraft a good run, and, in fact, in each of these two games Mr. Kraft was 1 down at the turn; greater experience of the game, however, enabled him to get ahead by the time the 18th was reached.

The final of 36 holes between Mr. Kraft and Mr. Brown resulted in a splendid game. There were never more than 2 holes in it. A great number of the holes were halved in bogey, and a fair number in par figures. All square at the 35th hole, Mr. Kraft succeeded in beating his opponent and winning the championship at the 36th (a difficult 5) by holing out in 6. Mr. Brown having had bad luck with the third shot, which kicked into very rough round to the left of the green. The winner's score for the last 9 holes was 39, and for the 36 holes it was approximately 166.

Mr. Brown is to be congratulated on a very creditable performance against such a formidable opponent. He played consistently well throughout the competition. The Tungshan course is of the type usually known as "sporting." The railway line of the Canton-Kowloon Railway crosses it at every hole except two, and a topped tee shot is almost invariably severely punished. It is a 9-hole course with sand "greens."

kicked behind. The K.S.L.I. attacked again almost at once, but were pulled up for offside. Following this Brown missed an easy chance, and Davies, who had lost about four opportunities of scoring, managed to beat the "goalie" at last, and registered the first goal for his side.

In the second half, in spite of good work by the Navy custodian, the soldiers found the net three times, Jones netting two and Cotton another, the K.S.L.I. eventually winning by four goals to nil.

INTIMATIONS

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

FOR LARGE SELECTIONS

RELIABLE QUALITIES—MODERATE PRICES.

NEW GOODS

SUITABLE FOR

XMAS PRESENTS

IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.

SMART WEARING APPAREL

FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

TOYS-GAMES

NOVELTIES FOR THE HOUSEHOLD

BRASS AND COPPER WARE.

STERLING SILVER GOODS

CHINA AND GLASS.

TABLE DELICACIES

CHOCOLATES AND SWEETS.

WINES—SPIRITS—CIGARS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

ISHERWOOD CIGARETTES.

HAND-MADE IN CAIRO.

No. 3 Large Size	Finest and
"First Quality,"	Choicest
\$4.50 per tin	Egyptian
of 100 or \$2.30	Cigarettes.
per tin of 50	Stand foremost
Duty Paid.	in the opinion
The most	of all
popular	Connoisseurs.
Egyptian.	



Obtainable at:

HONGKONG CIGAR STORE. KELLY & WALSH, LTD.
GREECO-EGYPTIAN TOBACCO STORE. LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.
ANGLO-EGYPTIAN TOBACCO STORE. A. S. WATSON & Co.

(1204-1)

Wm. Powell Ltd

TELEPHONE 346

A SPLENDID VARIETY

OF

LADIES' SEMI-EVENING

AND

EVENING FOOTWEAR

FOR THE XMAS SEASON

NOTE:—ELEGANT BUCKLES TO SUIT ALL STYLES.

Our Store will be Open during the current week until 6 o'clock for the convenience of our customers.

1077

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

BANK HOLIDAYS.

IN accordance with Ordinance No. 5 of 1912 the EXCHANGE BANKS will be CLOSED for the transaction of Public Business on MONDAY and TUESDAY, the 25th and 26th instant.

NOTICE.

THE OFFICES OF CHINESE MARITIME CUSTOMS for Kowloon and District will be CLOSED to Public Business on FRIDAY, the 22nd instant, and on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd January, 1917.

A. H. HARRIS,
Commissioner of Chinese Customs.

York Buildings,
Hongkong, 20th December, 1916. [1478]

WANTED.

BY Old Established British Firm on Shamen, thoroughly GOOD SUNDRIES EXPORT MAN; only experienced man with unimpeachable references will be considered.

"EXPORT,"
Care of "Daily Press," Office.

NOTICE.

THE BANDAGING at the PEAK CLUB will be discontinued during Christmas week. The last meeting this year will be on THURSDAY, December 21st, and Bandaging will start again on THURSDAY, January 4th, when it is hoped new Members will join and that there will be a regular attendance of all during the coming year on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS from 10 A.M. till 1 P.M.

There are Bandages to new roll and wool is supplied on THURSDAYS to those who knit. Work can be taken home by those who prefer to work there.

All those who have attended during the past year are heartily thanked, especially those who have attended regularly. The need is so great that it is earnestly hoped that everyone will make an effort to help, and it is pointed out that the Bandaging is open to all, whether Members of the PEAK CLUB or not.

(Signed) HELENA A. V. MAY,
President H.K.W.W.W.,
NINA SANDEMAN,
President PEAK CLUB Branch.

[1481]

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

BOXING DAY.

MIXED FOURSOME HANDICAP MEDAL PLAY. Players receive half of their aggregate Handicaps. Post Entries. Players may start at any time during the day. An Express Train will leave Kowloon at 10.08 A.M. First-Class Passengers only.

W. D. KHAFT,
Acting Hon. Secretary.

[1469]

HONGKONG HOTEL.

SPECIAL DINNERS will be served in the GRILL ROOM and DINING ROOM on the following days:

CHRISTMAS DAY.

BOXING DAY.

NEW YEAR'S DAY.

BAND in attendance. Plan of tables can be seen at Hotel Office.

[1469]

NATIONAL MISSION.

A Wish has been expressed by many of those who attended the Services and Addresses last week that they would like to subscribe to the expenses of the Mission.

Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. M. HUMPHREYS,
16, Queen's Road, will be glad to receive any further donations from any who have not subscribed and wish to do so.

[1464]

JEBSEN & CO.

(In Liquidation).

CREDITORS are required to send in their Claims to the Underigned on or before MONDAY, the 15th January, 1917.

Dated the 20th December, 1916.
W. M. HUMPHREYS,
No. 16, Queen's Road Central,
Liquidator.

[1472]

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, will be held at the Office of Messrs. SHEWAN, TOMES & Co., the General Managers of the Company, St. George's Building, Charter Road, Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, on FRIDAY, the Fifth day of January, 1917, at 12 o'clock Noon, when the subjoined Resolutions which were passed as Extraordinary Resolutions at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the said Company held on the Fifth day of December, 1916, will be submitted for confirmation as Special Resolutions:

(1) That the capital of the Company be reduced from \$4,000,000 (Four Million Dollars) divided into 400,000 (Four Hundred Thousand) Shares of \$10 (Ten Dollars) each, to \$3,000,000 (Three Million Dollars) divided into 300,000 (Three Hundred Thousand) Shares of \$10 (Ten Dollars) each, and that such reduction be effected by returning (on such dates as the Company's Board of Directors shall appoint) to the holders of the 400,000 (Four Hundred Thousand) Shares that have been issued paid up capital to the extent of \$2.50 (Two Dollars and Fifty Cents) per Share and by reducing the nominal amount of each of the said Shares from \$10 (Ten Dollars) to \$7.50 (Seven Dollars and Fifty Cents).

(2) That application be made to the Hongkong Court of Bankruptcy to confirm the reduction of the capital of the Company in conformity with the foregoing Resolution. Dated this 18th day of December, 1916.

By Order of the Board,
SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.,
General Managers.

[1476]

INTIMATIONS

LECTURE AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

CAPTAIN FELLIOT has kindly consented to give a LECTURE on "Central Asia as the meeting-point of Eastern and Western Civilizations," TO-DAY (THURSDAY), the 21st December, at 5.15 P.M.

All those who are interested are cordially invited.

By kind permission of His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, the LECTURE will be given in the Ball-Room at Government House.

H. E. POLLOCK,
Hon. Secretary,
HONGKONG OLD VOLUMES SOCIETY.

[1459]

LOST.

ON the evening of the 10th December, between Macdonnell Road and the Golf Club, Happy Valley, a BUCKLE BROOCH studded with brilliant stones will be handsomely rewarded on producing same to—
J. H. GARDINER,
Solicitor,
29, Queen's Road Central.

[1465]

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE CERTIFICATE No. 4064 for One Share, \$100 paid up, numbered 14119, standing in the Register in the name of ROY M. A. DA SILVA, having been declared LOST, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that unless the said Certificate be produced to the Society on or before the 10th March, 1917, A NEW CERTIFICATE for the said Share will be issued and the old Certificate will thereafter be held by the Society as null and void.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
C. MONTAGUE EDE,
General Manager.

Hongkong, 18th December, 1916. [1467]

HONGKONG TRAMWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the United Kingdom).

LOST.

TRANSFER RECEIPT No. 1277 issued to Messrs. LOGAN & BARTO for Transfer of 100 Shares in this Company in the name of Mrs. RURA WELLS, having been MISLAIN, LOST, or DESTROYED, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that unless the said Receipt is produced at this Office within 90 days from the date hereof, the Certificate for the said Shares will be delivered to the said Mrs. RURA WELLS, and the Transfer Receipt will thereafter be held by the Company as null and void.

W. E. ROBERTS,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 19th December, 1916. [1468]

NOTICE.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE CERTIFICATE for One Share, No. 5401 in this Company, standing in the name of Miss JOSE DE JESUS, of Macao, has been LOST, and if at the expiration of one month from the date hereof the above document be not forthcoming another Certificate for the said Share will be issued by the Company and thereafter no other will be acknowledged.

C. MONTAGUE EDE,
General Manager.

Hongkong, 19th December, 1916. [1474]

NOTICE.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE CERTIFICATE for Two Shares, Nos. 5414/5415 in this Company, standing in the name of Miss FELISIA NOUEIRA, of Macao, has been LOST, and if at the expiration of one month from the date hereof the above document be not forthcoming another Certificate for the said Shares will be issued by the Company and thereafter no other will be acknowledged.

C. MONTAGUE EDE,
General Manager.

Hongkong, 19th December, 1916. [1475]

BRITISH MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, TIENTSIN, NORTH CHINA.

THE COUNCILS are prepared to receive applications from British Subjects for the post of MUNICIPAL ENGINEER. Candidates will be required to pass a medical examination as to their fitness for the position. Applications should state age, qualifications, salary required, etc., and should be forwarded, together with copies of testimonials and particulars of previous employment, to the Under- signed on or before 31st December, 1916.

By Order,
J. R. LYNNESS,
Secretary.

Councils' Offices,
Tientsin, 6th November, 1916. [1384]

HONGKONG ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the demand for Electricity has almost reached the limit of the capacity of the present Generating Plant, and as a result no further applications for new connections can be accepted as from 1st January next, until completion of the New Power Station at North Point. It was fully expected that the North Point Station would have been completed and running before now, but owing to the War work in respect of the new plant has been very considerably delayed.

By Order of the Board,
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 14th December, 1916. [1455]

PROPOSALS FOR FROZEN FRESH BEEF AND MUTTON.

Philippine Department, Office Department Quartermaster, Manila, P.I.—Sealed Proposals will be received here until 12th, March 7th, 1917, and then opened, for furnishing about 5,000,000 pounds Beef and 100,000 pounds Mutton. Further information on application.

[1475]

INTIMATIONS

"KISMET"

A.D.C. Production

on behalf of the

"STAR AND GARTER FUND"

for Soldiers and Sailors totally

disabled in the War.

FOURTH, LAST NIGHT—

SATURDAY, DEC. 23rd.

AT 9 P.M. SHARP.

PRICES:

Dress Circle \$4.

Stalls 3.

Pit 1.

Soldiers and Sailors in uniform Half-Price.

[1334]

EXHIBITION

BY

M. KINSEN,

WELL-KNOWN LANDSCAPE PAINTER

OF

WATER COLOURS

AT

KOMOR & KOMOR'S

ART GALLERY.

Open on MONDAY, the 18th Dec.

For Five Days Only.

Mr. KINSEN is on a tour of the world and gives Hongkong a chance to see and purchase his wonderful paintings at Messrs. KOMOR & KOMOR from 8 A.M. till 5 P.M.

FOR FIVE DAYS ONLY! [1468]

SECOND 5½% RUSSIAN INTERNAL SHORT TERMED LOAN OF 1916

for Rbls. 3,000,000,000.

THE Subscription to the above LOAN will be Opened from 14th November to 26th December, 1916.

The price of issue is 95 per cent.

The Loan is entirely free of Income Tax and other taxation.

The Loan is redeemable at par on 14th October, 1926, without option for the Russian Government to convert it at an earlier date.

Coupons are payable half-yearly on the 14th April and 14th October.

As interest on the above Loan runs from 14th October, the interest accrued on date of subscription must be taken into consideration and is to be added to the price of issue.

The RUSSO-ASIATIC BANK in Hongkong is ready to accept applications for the above-named Loan.

Special favourable rates will be quoted for Russian Exchange.

Payment may also be made in Roubles.

Applications will be wired to Petrograd free of telegraphic charges and commission.

40 per cent. only of the cost of the Bonds may be paid on application, the balance to be paid on receipt of the Bonds.

The Bank is also ready to give every facility to subscribers in the shape of advances against the scrips.

G. FISDALL,
Manager,
RUSSO-ASIATIC BANK.

[1359]

WANTED.

A YOUNG ENGINEER with a good mechanical training for a Local Factory. Apply—

"TECHNIC,"
Care of "Daily Press" Office.

[1447]

WANTED.

ENGINEER, Br. abetainer, for Harbour or Shop. Apply in own writing with copy refs., stating age and salary required, to—
W. S. BAILEY & Co., Ltd.,
Kowloon.

[1348]

THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY.

"SHIRE" LINE OF STEAMERS.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM UNITED KINGDOM, GENOA, COLOMBO AND STRAITS.

THE Steamship

"CARMARTHENSIRE"

having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo by her are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at THEIR RISK into the Godowns and/or extra Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by us as a rule.

Owing to an outbreak of Fire on board this vessel at Port Swettenham a General Average Contribution of 10 per cent. will be collected.

The General Average Bond will require to be signed and deposited made before counter-signature of Bills of Lading can be given.

Goods not cleared by the 27th inst. at 5 P.M. will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed and damaged packages are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined by Messrs. GODDARD & DOUGLAS on the 28th Dec. at 10 A.M.

Claims against the Steamer for damage due to ordinary handling must be presented within 15 days of arrival, otherwise they will not be recognized.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 17th December, 1916. [25]

INTIMATION

WINES AND SPIRITS

ASSORTED CASES FOR XMAS.

—:—

CASE NO. 1—\$22.

3 Bots. St. Etienne Claret.

2 Bots. Sherry, Light Dry.

2 Bots. Port, Superior Light Invalid.

2 Bots. Gin.

1 Bot. Superior Old Liqueur Cognac.

1 Bot. Very Old Liqueur Scotch Whisky

"E" Quality.

1 Bot. Dewar's Scotch Whisky.

—:—

CASE NO. 2—\$28.

1 Bot. St. Marcoux Champagne.

1 Bot. Burgundy "Beauve."

3 Bots. Claret, St. Etienne.

1 Bot. Sherry, Superior Pale Dry "D" Quality.

1 Bot. Port, Superior Light Invalid.

1 Bot. Superior Old Liqueur Cognac.

1 Bot. Very Old Liqueur Scotch Whisky

"E" Quality.

1 Bot. Dewar's Scotch Whisky.

1 Bot. Gin.

1 Bot. Creme de Menthe.

—:—

CASE NO. 3—\$32.

2 Bots. St. Marcoux Champagne.

1 Bot. Sherry, Superior Pale Dry "D" Quality.

2 Bots. Port, Superior Light Invalid.

1 Bot. Very Fine OLD BROWN Brandy

"E" Quality.

1 Bot. Very Old Liqueur Scotch Whisky

"E" Quality.

1 Bot. Dewar's Scotch Whisky.

3 Bots. Claret, St. Etienne.

1 Bot. Creme de Menthe.

—:—

SPECIAL CASES PUT UP TO ORDER.

—:—

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

TELEPHONE 616

[13]

Hongkong Office: 10A, DES VUEX ROAD, C.

London Office: 191, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG 21st DECEMBER, 1916.

A COMPARISON BETWEEN CHINA AND JAPAN.

COMPARISONS between the China of to-day and the Japan of yesterday would be comforting if one could be sure that the Japan of to-day would be the China of to-morrow. That the Japan of fifty years ago betrayed little promise of reaching its present high position is so true that one eminent foreigner of the time predicted that Japan would split up into States and would be given over to civil commotions like any South American Republic. This prophecy, we believe, was made after the Satsuma Rebellion, when there was every promise of the country under its petty chiefs relapsing into the warlike condition which obtained in the Middle Ages. Satsuma, however, proved both the beginning and the end of the modern troubles. It was the last attempt to obtain that control over the Throne which had been exercised for so many years by different clans, and which the Tokugawas had carried to such an extreme that the very existence of the Throne was in danger of being forgotten. Yet there was every bit as much scheming and conniving, as much intriguing and plotting, in the Japan of fifty years ago as there is in China to-day. To disentangle the threads of influences, and say exactly what part this motive played and what part that, is a difficult task. It is commonly supposed that it was the power of the Throne which drew the clans together and prevented any clashing, but the Throne had been the plaything of the clans for so long that it is not easy to believe it could have exerted such influence. Perhaps it is more reasonable to regard the agreement as a self-denying ordinance among the clans not to lay hands on the Throne, but to share its power equally among them. Even in these circumstances, the course of regeneration did not run smoothly. Satsuma broke the agreement with the other clans and created the Satsuma Rebellion in the vain hope that he would be able to secure possession of the Throne and

start a new Tokugawa regime. Happily, the attempt failed, and has never been repeated. Thereafter the discontented had recourse to assassination, which ended the careers of such brilliant statesmen as OKUMA and MORI, and almost off OKUMA. Japan, indeed, suffered severely through the untimely deaths of some of her best intellects—Kuro in his thirties from consumption, Saigoo by his own hand after his unfortunate attempt, and YOSHIDA at the hands of the Shogunate. Nevertheless, there were enough left to carry on, and that brilliant band, now so sadly reduced, proved able to bring their country safely through the transition period and seat her firmly among the great Powers. How was it done? All the facts are accessible, but even when confronted with them there is difficulty in answering the question. At the best we can only pick out one or two contributory causes. One of these was the unquestioning obedience of the people. It is true, as we have said, that there were discontented spirits, but the bulk of the populace, even among those who might have been expected to prove intractable, accepted all the orders with submission and obeyed them almost with alacrity. Thus the order to the military class to lay down their swords was obeyed almost, it would seem, implicitly, and as the sword had been for centuries a sign of rank, its abandonment was a harder thing than appears on the surface. The military class, indeed, fared hardly in those days; many of them, having no aptitude for business, soon lost the money they had acquired and fell into the direst poverty. In other ways, also, the obedience of the people was shown, although it must be admitted, all legislation was conducted in a very cautious way. The feudal system was not swept away at a blow as imaginative and enthusiastic writers on Japan too often inform their readers. Very gradually were the powers exercised by the clan governments transferred to the central Government—first by appointing Imperial representatives, then by organising the clan governments all on one model, and, after some time, by the abolition of the clans themselves. The Japanese Government, has, indeed, always handled the public with kid gloves—so much so as to provoke at times a suspicion that it stood in fear of the mob. However this may be, very rarely has it aroused the public to anything but an academic opposition. At the end of the two wars—the war with China and the war with Russia—there were something like incipient rebellions against the Government's authority, but in both cases the trouble was quickly appeased without resort to extreme measures. On the whole, therefore, it must be admitted that the Japanese people showed an extraordinary placidity amid the changes going on round them, though whether this was because they approved of the changes or was a result of the long training they had received under an autocratic government it is hard to say. Such implicit obedience naturally rendered the task of the authorities very much easier. Then there is the patriotism—or, rather, nationalism—of the people to be considered. This was encouraged then, as it is encouraged to-day, as a valuable asset in the process of unification. For it has to be remembered that feudal Japan was as ready to fly off into fragments as China is to-day. The strong rule of the Tokugawas kept it together, but, before that, unity was only maintained at the cost of bloodshed, the actual rulers being the clan which was strong enough to keep the others in subjection. Modern China, immense as it is, is not more fragile than was ancient Japan, a fact to be remembered when we hear talk of the dismemberment of China. What, then, does the China of to-day lack which feudal Japan possessed? It may be patriotism, but we do not think it is. The Chinese can show themselves as patriotic as any nation; the only pity is that their patriotism runs over into channels from which nothing productive can come. Better directed, it would be of value. The Chinese, also, may be said to be as willing to accept reform as the Japanese. Reforms which bring them better security of life and property must, indeed, be welcome to any community, while the special privileges of certain classes which Japan had to deal with hardly exist in China. In the matter of statesmen mere hesitation must be felt in expressing an opinion. Generally speaking, the modern Chinese statesmen—those who are trying to build up the Chinese Republic—seem to lack the ardour which inflamed the Japanese statesmen of the Restoration period, who knew well that they carried their lives in their hands and yet persisted in the course which they believed to be best for the country. Chinese statesmen seem to be more easily discouraged and more ready to seek retirement when any trouble arises.

THE WAR.

BRITAIN AND PEACE.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S REPLY TO GERMANY.

FULL REPARATION MUST BE GUARANTEED.

GREEK SITUATION STILL DELICATE.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GERMANY'S PEACE PROPOSALS.

BRITISH PREMIER'S SCATHING REPLY.

COMPLETE REPARATION NECESSARY.

LONDON, December 20th.

The new Premier (Mr. Lloyd George) said he appeared before the House with the most terrible responsibility that could fall on the shoulders of any living man as the Chief Adviser of the Crown in the midst of the most gigantic war the country had ever been engaged in—a war upon the result of which its destiny depended. It was the greatest war that had ever been waged, its burdens were the heaviest ever cast upon this or any other country, while the issues were the gravest that ever attached to any conflict in which humanity had been involved. The responsibilities of the new Government had been suddenly accentuated by the declaration of the German Chancellor, whose statement in the Reichstag had been followed by the Note presented to us by the United States without comment. The answer, proceeded the Premier, will be given by the Government in full accord with our brave Allies. "Naturally there has been an interchange of views not upon the Note, because it has only recently arrived, but upon the speech which propelled it, and, inasmuch as the Note itself is practically only a reproduction, or certainly a paraphrase, of that speech, the subject-matter of the Note itself has been discussed formally. I am very glad to be able to state that we have each, separately and independently, arrived at identical conclusions. I am very glad that the first answer was given by France and Russia, for they have unquestionably the right to give the first answer to such an invitation, because the enemy is still on their soil and their sacrifices have been greater. That answer has been already published, and on behalf of the British Government I give our clear and definite support to it.

Any man, or set of men, who wantonly or without sufficient cause prolonged a terrible conflict like this would have on his soul a crime that oceans could not cleanse. On the other hand, it is equally true that any man or set of men who from a sense of weariness or despair abandoned the struggle without achieving the highest purpose for which he entered it would have been guilty of the costliest act of poltroonery ever perpetrated by any statesman. I should like to quote the very well-known words uttered by Abraham Lincoln under similar conditions: "We accepted this war for an object, and a world object, and the war will end when that object is attained under God. I hope it will never end until that time."

PAST EXPERIENCES.

Are we likely—continued Mr. Lloyd George—to achieve that object by accepting the German Chancellor's invitation? What are the proposals? There are none. To enter a conference on the invitation of Germany proclaiming herself victorious without any knowledge of the proposals she intends to make is to put our heads into a noose with the rope-ends in Germany's hands. This country is not altogether without experience in these matters. This is not the first time that we have fought against a great military despotism overshadowing Europe, and it will not be the first time that we have helped to overthrow a military despotism. We can recall one of the greatest of these despots. When he had a purpose to

serve in working his nefarious schemes his favourite device was to appear in the guise of the angel of peace. He usually appeared under those conditions when he wished for time to assimilate his conquests or to reorganise his forces for fresh conquests, or, secondly, when his subjects showed symptoms of fatigue and war weariness. The appeal was always made in the name of humanity. He demanded an end to bloodshed, at which he professed himself to be horrified, but for which he himself was mainly responsible. Our ancestors were taken in once, and bitterly they and Europe rue it. The time was devoted to reorganising his forces for a deadlier attack than ever upon the liberties of Europe. Examples of that kind cause us to regard this Note with a considerable measure of reminiscent disquietude.

BRITAIN'S TERMS.

We feel we ought to know, before we can give favourable consideration to such an invitation, that Germany is prepared to accede to the only terms on which it is possible for peace to be obtainable, and maintained, in Europe. These terms have been repeatedly stated by all the leading statesmen of the Allies. Mr. Asquith has stated them repeatedly. It is important that there should be no mistake in a matter of life and death to millions. Therefore I will repeat them again, namely, complete restitution and full reparation and effectual guarantees. Did the German Chancellor use a single phrase indicating that he was prepared to accept such a peace? The very substance and style of the speech constitute a denial of peace on the only terms on which peace is possible. He is not even conscious now that Germany has committed any offence against the rights of free nations. Listen to this from the Note: "Not for an instant have the Central Powers swerved from the conviction that respect of rights of other nations is not in any degree compatible with their own rights and legitimate interests." When did they discover that? Where was the respect for rights of other nations in Belgium and Serbia? That was self-defence, I suppose. Menaced by the overwhelming armies of Belgium—(laughter.)—I suppose the Germans had been intimidated into invading Belgium, burning Belgium's cities and villages, the massacre of thousands of inhabitants, both old and young, and carrying survivors into bondage. They were carrying them into slavery at the moment when this Note was being written about the unswerving conviction as to the respect of the rights of other nations. Are these outrages the legitimate interest of Germany? We must know that it is not the moment for peace if excuses of this kind, for palpable crimes, can be put forward two-and-a-half years after the exposure, by grim facts, of the guarantee. Is there, I ask in all solemnity, any guarantee that similar subterfuges will not be used in future to overthrow any treaty of peace you may enter into with Prussian militarism? This Note, and the speech, prove that not yet have they learned the very alphabet of respect for rights of others. (Cheers.) Without reparation peace is impossible. (Cheers.) Are all these outrages against humanity on land and sea to be liquidated by a few pious phrases about humanity? Is there to be no reckoning for them? Are we to grasp the hand that perpetrated those atrocities, in friendship, without any reparation being tendered or given? Germany leaves us to exact damage for all future violence committed after the war. We have already begun. It has cost us much, and we must exact it now so as not to leave such a grim inheritance to our children. Much as we all long for peace, and deeply as we are horrified with the war, this Note, and the speech which heralded it, do not afford us much encouragement and hope for an honourable and lasting peace. What hope is given in that speech? The whole root and cause of this great bitterness—the arrogant spirit of the Prussian military caste—will it not be as dominant as ever if we patch up peace now? (Cheers.)

WHY BRITAIN ENTERED THE WAR.

After pointing out that the speech in which these peace proposals were suggested resounded to the boast of a Prussian military triumph, Mr. Lloyd George declared:—We must keep a steadfast eye upon the purpose for which we entered the war, otherwise the great sacrifices we have been making will have been in vain.

The German Note states that it was for the defence of their existence and freedom for national development that the Central Powers were constrained to take up arms. Such phrases defeat even those who pen them. They are intended to delude the German nation into supporting the designs of the Prussian military caste. Who ever wished to put an end to Germany's national existence or freedom for national development? We welcomed their development, as long as it was along the paths of peace. The Allies entered this war to defend Europe against aggression and Prussian military domination, and, having begun it, they must insist that only the attainment of that end is the most complete and effective guarantee against the possibility of that caste ever again disturbing the peace of Europe. (Cheers.)

Prussia, since she got into the hands of that caste has been a bad neighbour—arrogant, threatening, bullying; shifting boundaries at her will; taking one fair field after another from weaker neighbours, with her belt ostentatiously full of weapons of offence, and ready at a moment's notice to use them. She has always been an unpleasant and disturbing neighbour in Europe. (Hear, hear.) It is difficult for those living thousands of miles away to understand what it has meant to those who lived near her. Even here, with the protection of the broad seas between us, we know what a disturbing factor the Prussians were with the constant naval menace; but even we can hardly realise what it has meant to France and Russia. Now that this war has been forced by the Prussian military leaders upon France, Russia, Italy and ourselves, it would be cruel folly not to see to it that this swashbuckling through the streets of Europe to the disturbance of all harmless and peaceful citizens shall be dealt with now as an offence against the law of nations. (Cheers.)

The mere word that lead Belgium to her own destruction will not satisfy Europe any more. We all believed it, we all trusted it, but it gave way to the first pressure of temptation, and Europe has been plunged into the vortex of blood. We will, therefore, wait until we hear what terms and guarantees the German Government offer other than those, better than those, given than those which she so lightly broke, and meantime we shall put our trust in an unbroken army rather than in a broken faith. (Loud cheers.)

LOOKING AT THE WORST SIDE.

Britain never appeared at her best except when she was confronted with a real danger and understood it.

"Let us for a moment look at the worst. The Roumanian blunder was unfortunate, but at the worst it prolongs the war; it does not alter the fundamental facts of the war. I cannot help hoping that it may even have salutary effects in calling the attention of the Allies to obvious defects in their organisation; not merely in the organisation of each, but in the organisation of the whole. If it does that, and braces them to fresh effort, it may prove, bad as it is, a blessing. That is the worst it has been—a real setback. It is the one cloud—well, it is the darkest cloud—and it appeared on our clearing horizon. We are doing our best to make it impossible that that disaster should lead to anything worse. That is why we have taken, in the last few days, this very strong action in Greece. We mean to take no risks there. We have decided to take definite and decisive action and I think it has succeeded. We have decided to recognise the agents of that great Greek statesman, Venizelos. (Cheers.)

GLORIOUS LESSONS OF THE WESTERN FRONT.

"I should like to say one word about the lessons of the fighting on the western front, about the significance of the whole of that great struggle, one of the greatest ever waged in the history of the world. It is full of encouragement and hope. It is full of encouragement and hope. Just look at it. An absolutely new army! The old had done its duty and spent itself in the achievement of that great task. This is a new army. But a year ago it was in the earth of Britain, yes, and of Ireland. It became iron. (Cheers.)

It has passed through a fiery furnace and the enemy knows it is now fine steel. (Cheers.) This new army, new men, new officers, generals new to the kind of work, have faced the greatest army in the world, the best equipped, the best trained, and have beaten them, beaten them, beaten them. (Loud cheers.) Battle after battle, day after day, week after week in the strongest entrenchments ever devised by human skill, they have driven them out by valour which is incredible. That is something which gives us hope, which fills you all with pride in the nation to which they belong. It is a fact, and it is a fact full of significance for us and for the foe. (Cheers.) The enemy has seen that army grow under his very eyes. They are becoming veterans, and, therefore, basing our confidence upon these facts, I am as convinced as I ever was of ultimate victory if the nation proves as steady, as valorous, as ready to sacrifice and learn and endure as that great army on the Somme." (Loud cheers.)

THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

The Premier proceeded to refer to the new Government, remarking that he was anxious, in doing so, to avoid all issues that excited irritation, controversy or disunion. It must not be assumed that he accepted as complete the accounts which had been given of the way in which the Government was formed. He was convinced that the controversies of the past would not help in regard to the future. Therefore, so far as he was concerned, he placed them on one side. He proceeded to speak of the unusual character and composition of the Government as an executive body. The House, he realised that there had been a separation between the functions of the Premier and the Leader of House. That was because these two offices were more than one man could undertake. There were three characteristics in which the present administration might be said to have departed, perhaps, from precedent. First, there was the concentration of the executive in a very few hands. Second, there was the choosing of men of administrative and business capacity rather than men of Parliamentary experience, where they were unable to obtain both, for the headship of a great department. Third, there was a more frank and fuller recognition of partnership of Labour in the Government. No Government of this country had ever contained such a large representation of Labour. They realised that it was impossible to conduct the war without getting the complete and unqualified support of Labour. Also, they were anxious to obtain Labour's assistance and counsel for the purpose of the conduct of the war. Previous Administrations had been peace structures, organised for a different purpose and in different conditions. Craft suitable for river or canal was not exactly the kind of vessel for high seas. He was not here referring to the last Cabinet, but to the old system of Cabinets, where the heads of every department were represented inside the Cabinet. He was convinced that the new form of Government was the best for war, where quick decision was necessary above everything. He declared that the Allies suffered disaster after disaster through tardiness in decision and action. You cannot run a war with a Sanhedrin. That was the meaning of a Cabinet of five, and one of its members doing sentry duty outside. It had been suggested there was danger of lack of co-ordination, but he pointed out that it was the old practice to have Heads of Departments outside the Cabinet, and whenever anything concerned a particular Department the head of that department could attend an Executive Committee to discuss the problems requiring solution. He thought this a very effective practice, and much better, especially at a time of war, than keeping men away from their Departments discussing things which did not directly concern them. He emphasized that henceforth there would be no distinction between the old War Committee and the War Cabinet. There was not the slightest attempt to depart, in any particular, from the complete control of Parliament, which must always be supreme.

Mr. Lloyd George stated that the Government were investigating the French system whereby Ministers had to appear before Parliamentary Committees, where questions could be asked them, and they could give an account which they would not care to give in public. It was possible they might refer the matter to Parliament for settlement.

WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Coming to the work of the Government, Mr. Lloyd George referred to the Ministry of Labour, and said he hoped this Department would not confine itself merely to settling disputes. He hoped it would become, in a real sense, a Ministry with the well-being of Labour in its charge. He also hoped the Department would take a leading part in assisting in the mobilisation of Labour for the purposes of the war. In regard to shipping, he emphasized that it was never so vital to the life of the nation as at present, and the Government felt the time had come to take more complete control of all the ships of Britain, and place them in practically the same position as railways, so that, during the war, shipping would be nationalised in the real sense of the term. The prodigious profits which were made out of freights contributed largely to the high cost of commodities, and made it difficult for the Government to induce organised Labour to give up privileges. Undue and extravagant profits in shipping were intolerable in war time. Sir Joseph Maclay was conferring with the Admiralty and the Shipping Control Committee, and he (Mr. Lloyd George) hoped soon to be able to inform the House of the plans he recommended not only for a more effective utilisation of ships already on the Register, but also for the speedy construction of more ships to replace wastage.

Regarding coal mines, the Government felt they ought to assume a more direct control over the whole industry.

FOOD PROBLEM SERIOUS.

The food problem was undoubtedly serious, and would be grave unless not merely the Government, but the nation was prepared to grapple with it courageously without loss of time. He pointed out that the available harvest of the world had failed, and the surplus available for export from Canada and the United States had diminished to a disastrous extent. The Argentine promised badly, Russia was not available, and Australia meant an almost prohibitive transport. Our own harvest was a poor one, and he did not believe that more than three-eighths of the usual sowing had taken place. It was true, to a certain extent, that you could make up by spring sowing, but that never produced anything comparable to winter sowing. The submarine menace in this respect was not the most important to consider. Under these circumstances the late Government decided to appoint a Food Controller, and the latter was assisted by the ablest experts in the House. At the head of the Board of Agriculture they had a man who was singularly gifted, and who had as thorough a knowledge of the principles and practices of this question as any man in this or any other country.

The problem is a double one, namely, distribution and production. Respecting both we must call upon the people of the country to make real sacrifices, but it is essential that the sacrifices should be equal. (Cheers.) Over-consumption by the affluent must not be allowed to create a shortage for the less well-to-do. "He hoped he could appeal to the men and women of all ranks to play the game. (Cheers.) Without the help of the whole nation we could accomplish nothing. "The whole nation must assist us so to distribute our resources that there shall be no man, woman and child who will suffer hunger because someone else is getting too much." (Cheers.) Regarding production, every available square yard must be made to produce food. All who had the opportunity must regard it as a duty to the State to assist in producing and contributing to the common stock. If this were done we should have food without any privation, without any want, everybody having plenty of the best and healthiest food. "It means sacrifices, but what sacrifices! Talk to a man who has returned from the Somme, or who has been through the haunting wretchedness of a winter campaign, and you will know something of what those gallant men are enduring for their country. (Hear, hear.) They are enduring much, and, harkening all while we are living in comfort and security. You cannot have absolute equality of sacrifice in war, but you can have equal readiness to sacrifice. Let the nation as a whole place its comforts, its luxuries, its indulgences, its elegances on a National altar, consecrated by such sacrifices as our heroes have made. Let us proclaim during the war a national Lent. The nation will be the better and stronger for it, morally, mentally and physically. (Cheers.) Our armies might drive the enemy from the battered villages of France and across the devastated plains of Belgium; they might hurl them across the Rhine in battered disarray, but unless the nation as whole shoulders part of the burden of victory, it will not profit by the triumph, for it is not what a nation gains, it is what a nation gives that makes it great." (Loud cheers.)

The Premier proceeded to say that it was intolerable the any section should be permitted to make exceptional profits out of these sacrifices. Much had been done by the late Administration to arrest the unfair private profiteering, but the Government had come to the conclusion that they could not ask the nation for more sacrifices without even more drastic steps yet being taken. After outlining what had already been done to meet this situation, Mr. Lloyd George stated that Mr. Bonar Law and others were now carefully examining the problem, and he hoped to be able to make an announcement shortly of the course the Government intended to adopt. It was quite clear that the nation must be asked to make further sacrifices in order to win the war, and the road must be cleared by action of this kind.

MOBILISING LABOUR RESERVES.

The Prime Minister next turned to the question of the mobilisation of Labour reserves, without which, let there be no mistake, we should not be able to pull through. This was a question not of years but of months, perhaps of weeks, and unless the labour of the country was used to the best advantage, and every man called upon to render such service to the State as he can best give, victory is beyond our reach. The problem was a difficult one. To complete what had already been done, the speaker outlined what the Government ought to have the power to say that every man who was not taken into the army, whatever his position or rank, was really employed on work of National importance. At present it was only the man who was fit for military service, and who had not established a claim for exemption, upon whom the nation could call. The unfit man and exempted man were surely under the same moral obligation, but still there were no means of enforcing it. It was with this imperfect organisation of our industrial man power that we were called upon to confront an enemy who not only over his own population, but had introduced a practice hitherto unknown in civilised warfare, of removing civilian inhabitants from occupied territory to make good the shortage of labour in his own factory.

[The speech was not concluded when we went to press.]

MR. ASQUITH'S VIEW.

Mr. Asquith (the ex-Premier) who succeeded Mr. Lloyd George, congratulated him upon his accession to the Premiership, and defined his own attitude towards the new Government as the friendliest. He defended the late Administration against accusations of ineffective prosecution of the war, and, referring to the peace proposals, said they were wrapped up with the familiar dialect of Prussian arrogance. He asked why the Power professing itself conscious of its military superiority and ultimate victory was shouting universally for peace. Amid cheers he declared that the proposals were born of military and economic necessity. Peace must be honourable, not shameful, not patched up, precarious compromise, but one achieving the purpose for which we entered the war. Such a peace we would gladly accept. Anything short of that we were bound to repudiate by every obligation of honour, above all by the debt we owed to those, especially to the young, who had given their lives for what they and we believe is a worthy cause. "I say plainly and emphatically that I see nothing in the German Note to give me the least reason to believe that they are in the mood to give the Allies reparation for the past and security for the future. If they are in such a mood, let them say so." (Loud cheers.)

EARLIER CABLES.

PARLIAMENT AND PEACE PROPOSALS.

A MEMORABLE MEETING.

LONDON, December 19th.

A record attendance is expected at to-day's memorable meeting of the House of Commons. Mr. Asquith will probably be present, and Mr. Lloyd George, who was working yesterday, is likely to speak for two hours. His reference to the German peace offering will be the first official announcement on the Note, which was presented to the Foreign Office yesterday.

FRANCE RECEIVES PEACE NOTE.

PARIS, December 19th.

The American Ambassador has handed the Foreign Office the German Peace Note, which is identical to the one which Bethmann Hollweg's statement in the Reichstag, consisting of a general proposal, with no concrete conditions.

The Balkans.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE GREEK SITUATION.

ATHENS, December 20th.

Notes addressed to the Entente a Note reviewing the situation since the acceptance of the ultimatum, and the difficulties resulting from events in the islands and from the delay in the formation of the Entente's demands of reparation, and the maintenance of a blockade. The Government implies that it may be compelled to suspend the southward movement of troops pending a solution of the present situation.

EARLIER CABLES.

GERMAN CLAIM.

BIG CAPTURES OF MEN AND MATERIAL.

LONDON, December 19th.

A German official report states:—Russian attacks at Valpoutina have been repulsed. We have captured a thousand Russians and Roumanians and many food-laden vehicles in Wallachia in the last two days. The Russo-Roumanians have continued their retreat northwards in Dobruja, and we are advancing towards the lower Danube.

THE GREEK CRISIS.

ATHENS, December 19th.

The situation is uncertain. The Entente diplomats are exchanging views regarding the second Note. The Press now describes the situation as impossible, and urges the Government to take vigorous measures to terminate it.

NEW ULTIMATUM READY.

LONDON, December 19th.

Reuter learns that the draft of the new ultimatum to Greece is settled, and that its presentation is imminent.

franco-Belgian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GERMAN ADMISION.

RECAPTURE OF CHAMBRETTES FARM.

LONDON, December 19th.

A Berlin official communiqué admits that the French have recaptured Chambréttes Farm.

FRENCH ACTIVITIES.

December 19th.

A French communiqué says:—The enemy has bombarded the region of Louvemont and Chambréttes. Two enemy aeroplanes were brought down at Verdun, and our air squadrons heavily bombed the railway stations at Dun-sur-Meuse and Montmedy, and bivouacs at Azannes.

THE SOMME FIGHTING.

HUGE ENEMY LOSSES.

LONDON, December 19th.

It is stated that an independent estimate by the British General Staff of the German losses on the Somme substantially coincides with the French official estimates of 820,000.

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The boy died half an hour later."

He stooped—he knew he should—to pick it. Wonder of wonders, he gathered it, and held it in his hand! And as he

so his gloom and wretchedness slipped from him like the Pilgrim's burden, that he could have sung, for the joy of his heart, over his weakness of the body, over with his hands on the doors, "Let me in; O let me in to rest!"

whispered.

The door opened; sunshine flooded his "Come!" said friendly, sweet, silvery voices. "We knew that you were on your way. We will help you. Come. Friend of ours, and rest!"

Later in the day his men found his face; they said afterwards, we came and smiling a little, as though he had

